

A banner for the Washington State Patrol. It features a blue-tinted background image showing several patrol officers in uniform and vehicles. The text "WASHINGTON STATE PATROL" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters across the center of the banner.

# WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

## Accountability Driven Leadership

Captain Stephen R. Burns  
District Commander  
King County

# Recognizing the problem



- ★ In 2000, about one person died each month on East Snohomish county roads
- ★ 16 troopers patrol 133 miles of highway, including U.S. 2 from Everett to Stevens Pass, U.S. 9 from Clearview to Lake Stevens, and the busy stretch of U.S. 522 between Monroe and Woodinville
- ★ East Snohomish County has grown by 30% in the last 10 years
- ★ Traffic volumes have increased 22% on US 2, 76% on SR 9 and 28% on SR 522
- ★ *Reader's Digest* rated this area one of America's Most Dangerous Highways in 2000

# We sought solutions

- ★ We began utilizing an Accountability Leadership Model called the Strategic Advancement Forum. This forum requires managers to report to the Chief and agency Executive Staff every month about their successes in reducing injury and fatality collisions.
- ★ The Washington State Patrol is taking a tough stance on impaired drivers, dangerous speed, aggressive driving, and seat-belt violators.
- ★ We track where accidents occur and focus enforcement patrols in those areas.



# **Our Partners**

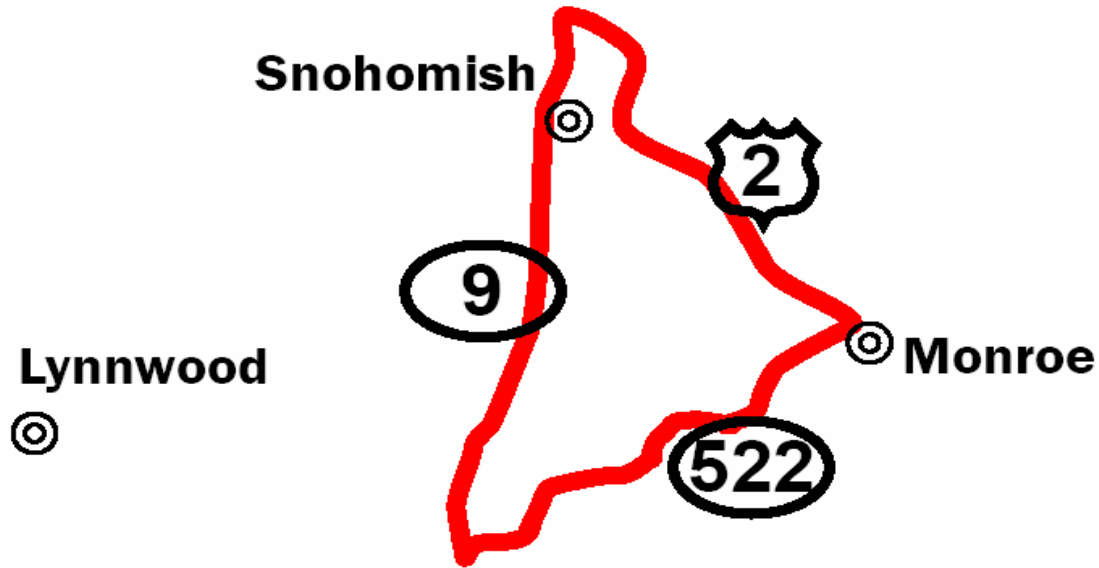
- ★ **Washington State Patrol and The Washington State Department of Transportation are working together to address the challenges in this area.**
  - ★ **Share data on collisions, weather, traffic volumes, areas of concern, high crash locations, and high accident corridors.**
  - ★ **Give WSP troopers and dispatch centers uncensored access to our wide network of freeway cameras to gather data about crashes and roadways safety.**
  - ★ **Coordinate public information messages on highway incidents, winter and pass driving and campaigns such as “Give ‘Em a Break” and “Steer it-Clear It”**
- ★ **Local law enforcement agencies worked together to increase enforcement. Special emphasis targeting impaired drivers were done working together to bring agencies closer together.**
- ★ **Media - A more proactive approach to bring the media to educate the public.**

# Snohomish County



East Snohomish county is northeast of Seattle, a rural area that, up until 15 years ago, was farms, rolling hills, wide, fluctuating rivers and pastureland. Now, in 2005, it's considered a bedroom community for Seattle. The only way in and out are three, two lane highways: US 2, State Route 9 and State Route 522.

## Site Location

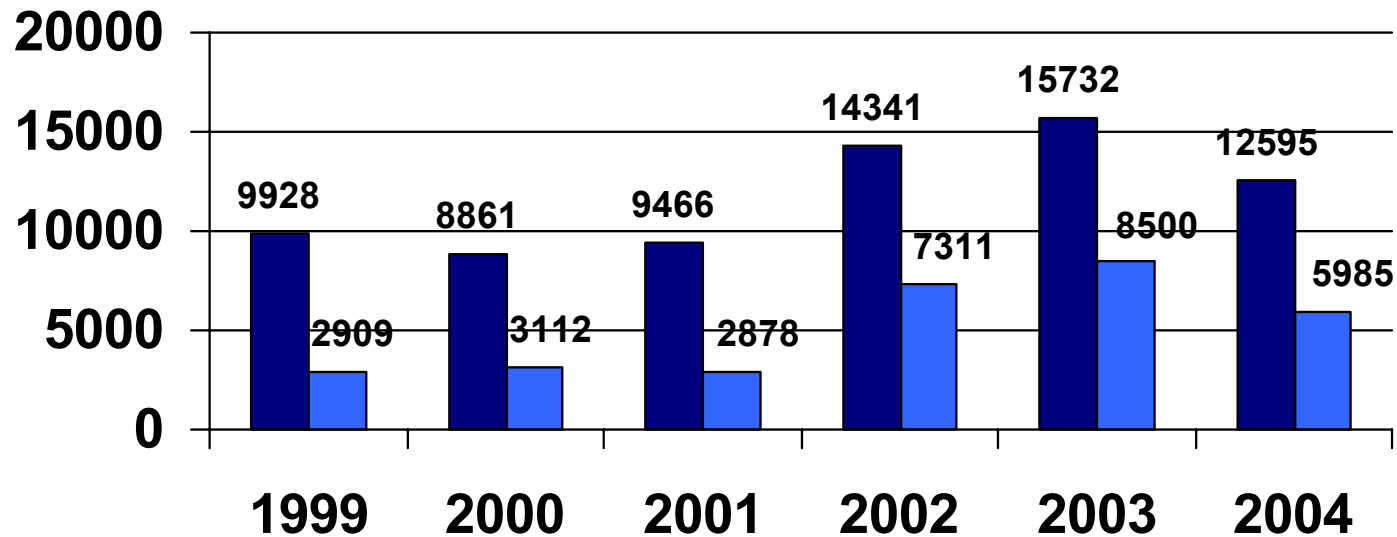


***Reader's Digest* rated this area one of America's Most Dangerous Highways in 2000. It was also referred to as the "Triangle of Death."**



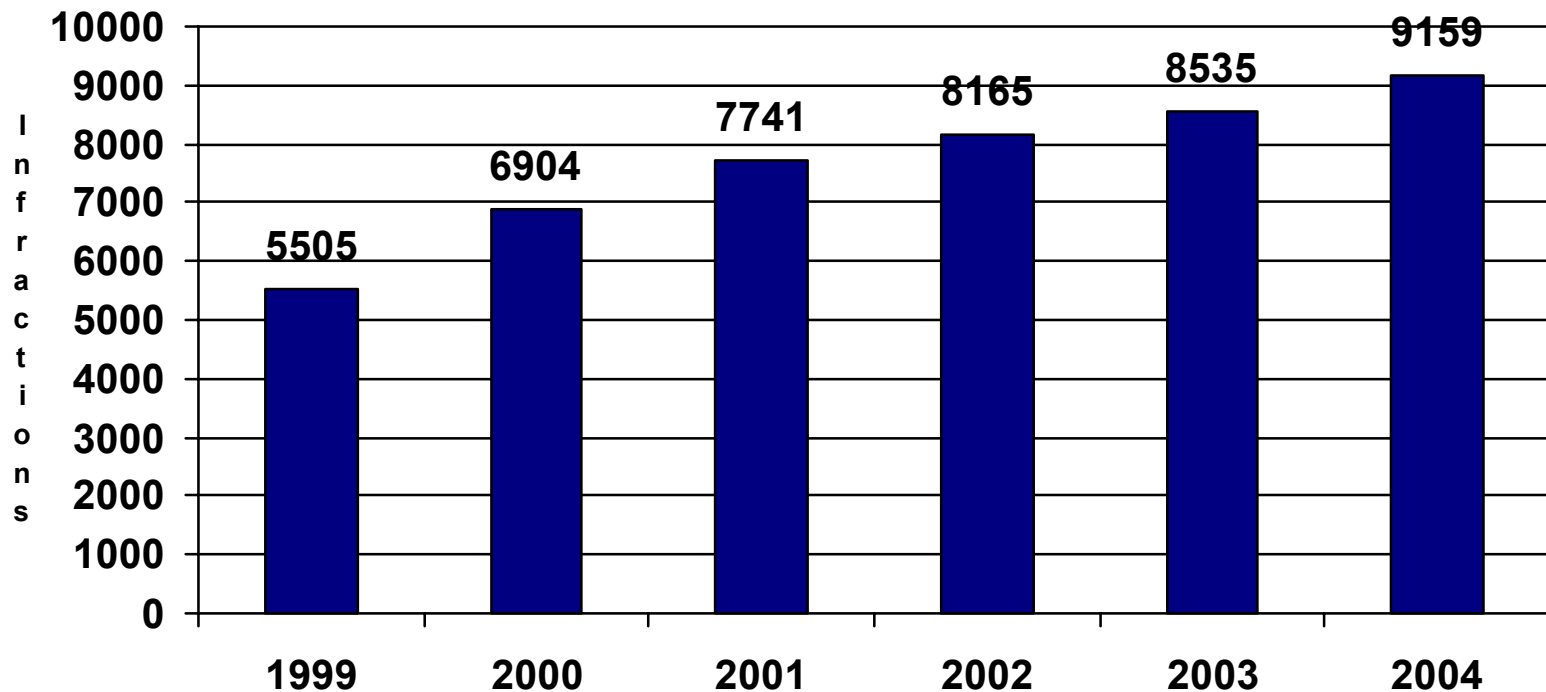
# **F**ocusing on enforcement

**27% Increase in Speed Contacts  
106% Increase in Speed Infractions  
East Snohomish County**



# Focusing on enforcement

## 66% Increase in Seat Belt Infractions East Snohomish County

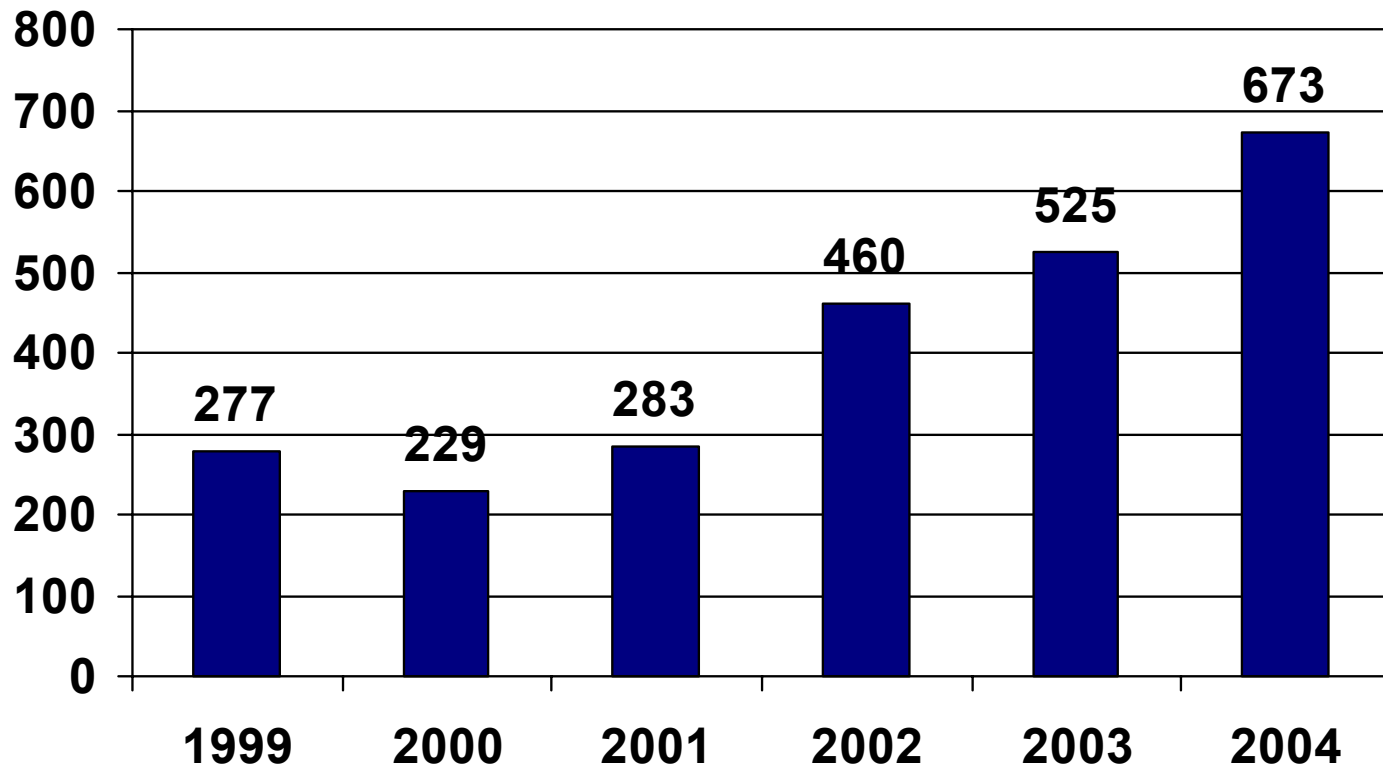




## **F**ocusing on enforcement

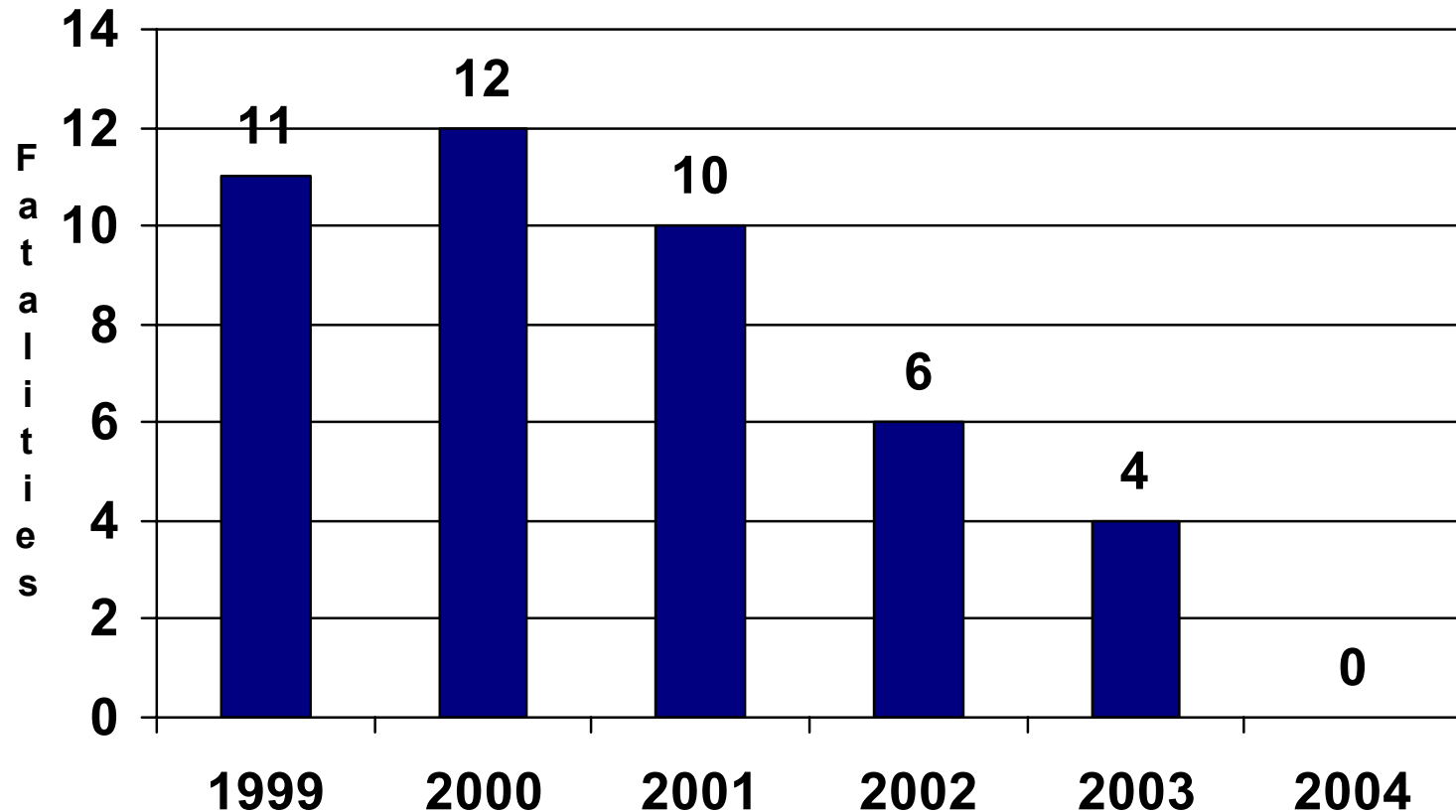
---

### **143% Increase in DUI Arrests East Snohomish County**



# What gets measured gets done

## 0 Fatality Collisions East Snohomish County



# Challenges

- Change in direction from previous philosophy.
- Public perception to increased enforcement.
- Officer reluctance.
- Open and honest dialog in an open forum.

# Why we were successful

- Utilizing our resources.
- Timely data.
- Prompt reporting in an open forum.
- The hard work of the troopers and officers.
- Acknowledging the positive results.
- Working together!

Questions?

**THANKS!**